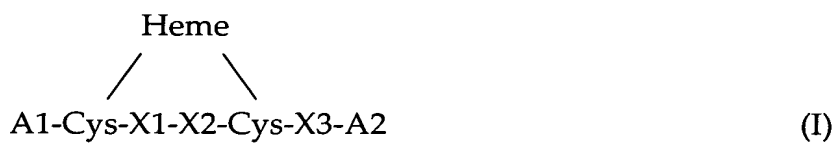


**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraph on page 2, lines 5-15 and replace it with the following paragraph:

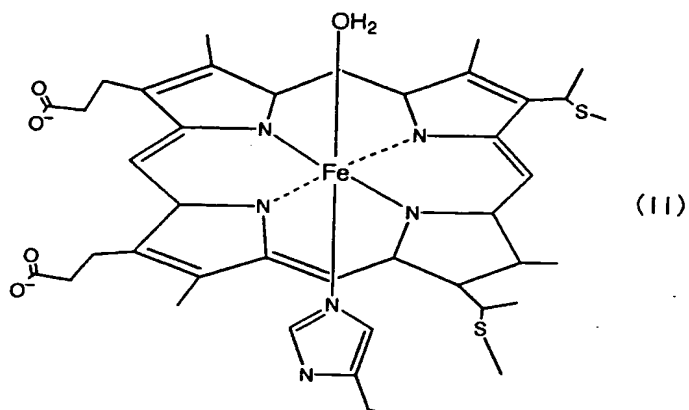
--The present invention relates to a heme peptide represented by the following formula I.



(where A1 is a hydrogen atom or a peptide chain consisting of 1 to 20, preferably 1 to 10, especially preferably 1 to 5, amino acid residues;

A2 is a hydroxyl group or a peptide chain consisting of 1 to 50, preferably 1 to 10, especially preferably 1 to 5, amino acid residues;

the heme is a heme nucleus represented by the following formula:



X1 and X2 each independently represent any amino acid residue; and

X3 is His, Lys or Arg.)(see SEQ ID NO: 11 for complete embodiment).--

Please delete the paragraph on page 2, line 16 to page 3, line 8 and replace it with the following paragraph:

--The heme nucleus described above is capable of linking to cysteine residues via the cysteinyl thioether bonds at positions 3 and 8.

(2) The heme peptide of (1) above, wherein X1 and X2 each independently represent an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Gln, Lys, Arg and Val (see SEQ ID NO: 12 for complete embodiment).

(3) The heme peptide of (1) above, wherein X1 is Ala; X2 is Gln or Ala; and X3 is His (see SEQ ID NO: 13 for complete embodiment).

(4) The heme peptide of (1) above, wherein

A1 is a hydrogen atom or a peptide chain having an amino acid sequence of Val Gln Lys;

A2 is a peptide chain having an amino acid sequence of Thr Val Glu Lys (SEQ ID NO: 14) or Thr Val Glu Lys Gly Gly Lys His Lys Thr Gly Pro Asn Leu (SEQ ID NO: 18);

X1 is Ala; X2 is Gln; and X3 is His (see SEQ ID NO: 5 for complete embodiment).

(5) The heme peptide of (1) above, wherein

A1 is a peptide chain having an amino acid sequence of Phe Ser Ala Asn (SEQ ID NO: 15);

A2 is a peptide chain having an amino acid sequence of Ala Gly Gly Asn Asn Ala (SEQ ID NO: 16);

X1 is Ala; X2 is Ala; and X3 is His (see SEQ ID NO: 3 for complete embodiment).--